

08-451 Sheriffs' Housing of State Inmates

The mission of the Sheriff's Housing Program to provide a safe and secure environment for the adult male and female offenders and juveniles who have been committed to state custody and are awaiting transfer to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C), Corrections Services. Due to space limitations in state correctional institutions, the DPS&C, Corrections Services, continues its partnership with the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association and other local governing authorities by utilizing parish and local jails for housing offenders. Louisiana houses more state offenders in local jails than any other state. According to a 1999 legislative Fiscal Office survey, 13 of 16 Southern Legislative Conference states surveyed confined inmates in local jails. The shifting of inmates to the local level has caused some jails to house inmates in excess of designed capacities. Of the ten states reporting local jail capacity data, state inmates filled approximately 14% of those beds. Local jail populations exceed reported capacity in five of the nine states reporting total jail populations. In Louisiana, state prisoners generally occupy about 43% of the prisoner beds available in local prisons. However, Louisiana reported local jails at 99.2% of capacity.

Because of the critical need for close coordination between state and local government in the management of prison and jail bed space, the DPS&C, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, and other interested parties have forged a Community Corrections Partnership to assure maximum efficiency in the system. Assistance in the construction of new jail space, effective utilization of the space, and a joint monitoring and quality assurance mechanism are key components. The department and local public entities agree to provide jail space in excess of local needs in exchange for the state's commitment to utilize a fixed percentage of the space. This arrangement enables financing of the facility when other options are not available and allows expansion of the number of beds for local use as well as state use. By July 1999, the department had signed 30 cooperative endeavor agreements for adult beds, all of which had been approved by the Division of Administration. As a result, the department gained access to about 1,694 beds. Additional beds, approved but not yet finished being constructed, will add approximately 2,349 spaces for state inmates and 3,524 for local use.

The department and the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association have jointly developed a comprehensive set of basic jail guidelines, which must be followed by any parish prison or local detention facility as a condition of housing state inmates. This voluntary quality assurance effort has done much to ensure that the basic conditions under which state inmates are housed in local facilities are safe and constitutional.

The goal of the Sheriffs' Housing of State Inmates Program is to continue the Community Corrections Partnership and to reimburse local authorities through the program.

BUDGET SUMMARY

	ACTUAL 1999 - 2000	ACT 11 2000 - 2001	EXISTING 2000 - 2001	CONTINUATION 2001 - 2002	RECOMMENDED 2001 - 2002	RECOMMENDED OVER/(UNDER) EXISTING
MEANS OF FINANCING:						
STATE GENERAL FUND (Direct)	\$134,043,531	\$151,431,086	\$151,431,086	\$155,724,450	\$152,320,673	\$889,587
STATE GENERAL FUND BY:						
Interagency Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fees & Self-gen. Revenues	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Dedications	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interim Emergency Board	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING	\$134,043,531	\$151,431,086	\$151,431,086	\$155,724,450	\$152,320,673	\$889,587
EXPENDITURES & REQUEST:						
Sheriffs' Housing of State Inmates	\$134,043,531	\$151,431,086	\$151,431,086	\$155,724,450	\$152,320,673	\$889,587
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND REQUEST	\$134,043,531	\$151,431,086	\$151,431,086	\$155,724,450	\$152,320,673	\$889,587
AUTHORIZED FULL-TIME						
EQUIVALENTS: Classified	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unclassified	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

This agency's recommended appropriation does not include any funds for short-term debt.

This agency does not have any long-term debt for Fiscal Year 2001-2002.